

FALCONER NEWS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****Please continue to check our website for the most up-to-date information on events taking place****

December 4	Winter Art Show, 6:00 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
December 5	Middle School Band Concert, 6:30 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
December 7	High School Holiday Pop Concert, 7:00 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
December 12	Middle School Choir Concert, 7:00 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
December 14	Falcon Kids Choir, 7:00 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
December 18	Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room
Dec. 25-Jan. 5	No School, Young 5 - 12 Grade, Christmas Break
Dec. 25-Jan. 5	District Office Closed

Merry
Christmas



Allendale High School CBVI (Community Based Vocational Instruction) and LINKS (program designed for peer to peer support for individuals with disabilities) sponsored a tree at the Life Stream Christmas Tree Walk. Be sure to stop by and check it out!



Allendale LINKS Fun

Allendale High School's LINKS students took a trip in October to make apple cider with the children at Allendale Child Care Center. The AHS students had a blast making apple cider with the children from Allendale Child Care Center. Check out the cool pictures!



Allendale High School's LINKS program had the opportunity to spend the day together at the GR Griffins Hockey School Day game on November 15th.



Allendale Early Childhood Center Happenings



Allendale Public School's nurses, Amanda Lares and Amanda Tammens, do a great job working with our building MERT (Medical Emergency Response Team) and all the other services they provide to help keep our students healthy and safe. They make sure we are prepared for any emergency that might happen in all of our buildings. This is the ECC (Early Childhood Center) MERT Team drill (training) that they lead. This is the first drill for this year with more to follow at each building. Great job Mrs. Lares and Mrs. Tammens and ECC MERT Team for a successful drill.

Mrs. Couturiers Young Fives class celebrated Friendsgiving before break. Each student brought in a special snack to share and they did special activities together.



T H A N K F U L

Evergreen Happenings

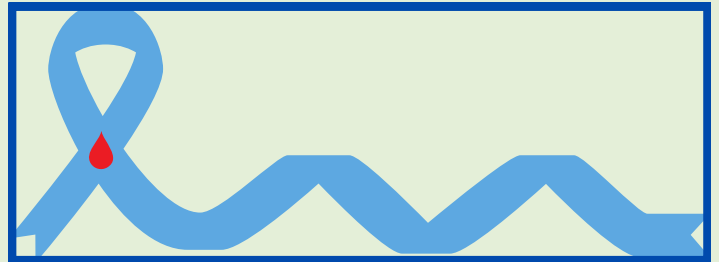


Our annual fall book fairs were a great success. It was the largest sale to date with over 1,600 purchases made between each of the buildings and generated \$13,442 profit which will be spent on more great books for our school libraries. The children in preschool through 8th grade along with their parents during Parent-teacher conferences were excited to visit and purchase items. We had over 20 high school student volunteers from the National Honors Society and Rotary Interact clubs who helped with the sale. There were also 15 community volunteers including grandparents, PTO members and other friends of the library who helped our amazing library staff and

teachers make it happen. A big thanks to our generous community and support of our families who helped make this a fun event and a benefit for our school libraries.



Mrs. Dykstras's 2nd graders rocked their blue for World Diabetes Day!



Mrs. Heiks' 1st grade class continues to work with Green Acres Assisted Living Center. Her class made Thanksgiving dinner placemats for the seniors. They did a directed drawing of a turkey, added a poem and a couple fun Thanksgiving jokes. The kids were very excited!



Oakwood Happenings

Oakwood in Pictures

November was a busy month at Oakwood. Enjoy a few pictures of our students.

- Miss Holdsworth's and Miss Czarnecki's classes shared persuasive essays they wrote about topics they are passionate about.
- Students had lunch with Mrs. Luban as a reward for earning a Communitarian Award.
- KIDS HOPE mentors make a HUGE difference in the lives of our students.
- Student office helpers keep the Oakwood office running smoothly.
- Recess is always more fun with friends.
- Oakwood's Singing Falcons make beautiful music.
- Hunger/Homeless Awareness food donations are appreciated!.



Allendale High School Happenings

On November 18th the Allendale High School CAMPP Team participated in the Allendale Artisan & Craft Marketplace to show off their skills and help support the Allendale High School Senior Parent Group. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to showcase their craftsmanship and increase their focus area in the following categories.

- Community involvement
- Leadership Skills
- Financial Skills
- Public Speaking
- Public Relations
- Marketing

The team was amazing, accomplished their goals and donated a portion of the proceeds to the High School Senior Parent Group. A big shout out to the CAMPP Team, their talents and commitment to the community.



The Woodworking Technology II students recently finished their Adirondack Chair manufacturing and mass production unit. The students took the raw material (lumber) and machined it to specifications, while focusing on quality throughout the process. They manufactured all the parts needed for the chairs and completed the pre-assembly of the leg and arm units. They assembled the chairs using an assembly line process to mass produce the chairs. They met their goal of 38 chairs in 33 class periods and hit another goal of producing 8 chairs in a single class! A big shout out to these amazing students!



Allendale Public Schools would like to

Thank You

For supporting
Homeless Awareness Week!

23,954 items were donated
Your generosity is greatly
appreciated.



Y5-12TH WINTER ART SHOW

December 4, 2023
Opening Reception
6:00-7:30 PM

Ceglarek Fine Arts Center Gallery
Entertainment | Refreshments | Interactive Art Making

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Nicole Basso

School social worker -AECC

- Mrs. Basso has been with APS 2 years full time and one year of internship with Mr. Patteuw.
- Mrs. Basso is an exceptional school social worker, colleague, and service provider to the students at the Early Childhood Center building. Mrs. Basso is very knowledgeable, works great with others, is highly respected by her co-workers and administration. Mrs. Basso is also a very hard worker - trying to assist students and staff in need whenever possible. She is a huge asset to the ECC as well as Allendale Public Schools, and we greatly appreciate her and all she does on a daily basis.
- She has 2 kids (Levi and Charlotte) and a dog Luna and husband of 8 years. She loves reading, cooking and baking.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Emily Mindling

Oakwood Resource Room Teacher

- Ms. Mindling is in her third year with APS.
- Ms. Mindling is a great teacher. She is very dedicated to supporting students and co-workers at Oakwood Intermediate. She has formed excellent relationships with the students through her dedication to supporting them and teaching them, and is highly respected by the staff and administration who work with her. Mrs. Mindling's work is excellent whether it is working with students, leading meetings, or doing special education paperwork. Mrs. Mindling is a true team player and vital part of the special education department's success.
- She likes to travel, play soccer and just bought a house that she is enjoying renovating!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Avery Teller

Special Ed Paraprofessional at Evergreen

- Ms. Teller has been with APS 1.5 years in operations and 1 year as a parapro.
- Ms. Teller has done a remarkable job since joining the Allendale team. She is hard working, knowledgeable, easy to work with, and dedicated to students' success. Avery is very positive and upbeat and those who work with her respect her work ethic and her skill set. She has been able to make great gains with the students she works with and is greatly appreciated by her team!
- Ms. Teller attended and graduated from Allendale Public Schools. Upon graduating, she went into full time operations at APS and has worked full time at the school ever since. Go Falcons!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Early Childhood Center



Jenni Cook

Kindergarten Teacher

- Mrs. Cook has been at APS 5 years.
- Mrs. Cook is a dedicated member of the AECC Kindergarten team. She has bought into our school-wide PBIS system, and will frequently give out the most Falcon Tickets in the school. Mrs. Cook makes learning fun, even for our littlest Falcons, as you can frequently hear laughter and learning coming from her classroom. We are blessed to have Mrs. Cook as a member of the AECC, and Kindergarten team!
- Mrs. Cook loves to travel and has been to 44 states and 8 countries. In college, she also spent 12 weeks in Uganda where she volunteered at a school/orphanage.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Early Childhood Center



Kristin Zeller

Three-Year-Old Preschool Aide

- Mrs. Zeller has been at APS 5 years.
- Mrs. Zeller is one of our fabulous aides who works in our preschool programs. She spends her mornings in Mrs. Suits' three-year-old preschool classroom and then shifts her afternoons to help support Mrs. Craddock in her GSRP preschool class. Mrs. Zeller goes above and beyond her responsibilities, and is always willing to step in and support whatever is best for her students, or the AECC. We are blessed to have Mrs. Z as a dedicated member of the AECC!
- Mrs. Zeller lived in Japan for a year!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Evergreen Elementary



Renee Bauder

3rd Grade Media Center Aide

- Mrs. Bauder is in her 8th year with APS
- Mrs. Bauder and her husband have two kids and she enjoys crafting and hiking on Beaver Island.

Janis Lutz

1st and 2nd Grade Media Center Aide

- Mrs. Lutz is in her 28th year with APS
- Mrs. Lutz and her husband have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, a dog (Nala) and a cat (Yeti). Mrs. Lutz enjoys quilting, sewing, and spending time with her grandchildren.

- Mrs. Bauder and Mrs. Lutz did a tremendous job supporting the Book Fairs around the district that occurred this past month. They have done a great job in supporting our young Falcon readers and provide fantastic read-alouds to our students during their time in the library. The libraries are always organized and looking their best! Thanks Mrs. Bauder and Mrs. Lutz!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Evergreen Elementary



Betsy VanderPloeg

Reading and Math Specialist

- Mrs. VanderPloeg is in her 22nd year at Allendale Public Schools.
- Mrs. VanderPloeg not only oversees Evergreen's Intervention Team, but she also diligently works with our students to overcome learning challenges in Reading and Math. Additionally, Mrs. VanderPloeg leads our schoolwide data review meetings and has helped to build a strong culture of data-based decision-making at Evergreen. Mrs. VanderPloeg approaches her work with passion and has a true servant's heart. She is a fantastic teammate to her co-workers and is a gifted educator. We are very grateful for the many ways that Mrs. VanderPloeg blesses the Evergreen students, staff, and the broader Allendale community!
- Mrs. VanderPloeg has two sons in college (GVSU and MSU). She and her husband Jack, have enjoyed tailgating with friends at GVSU and MSU games this fall.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Oakwood Intermediate



Brittany Kulikamp
5th Grade Teacher

- Ms. Kulikamp is in her 2nd year of teaching at Oakwood.
- Ms. Kulikamp is a graduate of APS. Among other things, she does a great job of creating community and connecting with her students. Ms. Kulikamp not only teaches by day, but is also the Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball Coach. We are glad to have Ms. Kulikamp as a part of the teaching staff at Oakwood and the AHS Girls Basketball program.
- A fun fact about Ms. Kulikamp: She lived in Australia for three months before graduating from Baker College.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Oakwood Intermediate



Judy Mullenix

Oakwood Health Aide

- Mrs. Mullenix has been with APS 3 years.
- Mrs. Mullenix is a valuable member of the team. Mrs. Mullenix serves the Oakwood students and families as the Health Aide and occasionally provides Health Aide support to other buildings when needed. Mrs. Mullenix is always the first person to offer her assistance to other staff, no matter the job to be done. Thank you, Mrs. Mullenix, for your continued support of our Oakwood students and staff.
- A fun fact about Judy: She has 35 grandchildren.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Middle School



Bev Dreese

Maintenance at AMS

- Mrs. Dreese has been at APS 29 years.
- Congratulations Mrs. Dreese for being one of our Staff Members of the Month. Mrs. Dreese works tirelessly to ensure a clean and welcoming learning environment for all. Her unwavering commitment to maintaining a pristine school setting does not go unnoticed, creating a positive impact on the daily experiences of our students and staff. Join us in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Dreese as her hard work and dedication truly make Allendale Middle School a better place for all.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Middle School



Scott Walstra

PE Teacher at AMS

- Mr. Walstra has been with APS 29 years.
- We are delighted to announce Mr. Walstra, our outstanding Physical Education teacher, as the Staff of the Month. Mr. Walstra's commitment to creating an inclusive and enjoyable PE experience for all students has truly set him apart. His passion for fitness, health, and well-being serves as an inspiration to both students and colleagues. Join us in acknowledging and expressing gratitude for Mr. Walstra's exceptional contributions to Allendale Public Schools!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale High School



Jeff Vargo

Industrial Technology teacher

- Mr. Vargo has been with APS 5 years
- When Mr. Vargo started at AHS he hit the ground running, redesigning the entire shop to make it safer and more accessible for students. This included a community fundraising program to get the money needed to purchase equipment that improved the safety of our students working in his classes. Mr. Vargo has created more expanded opportunities for his students by working closely with local industries to design multiple new industrial arts classes. Beyond the school day, Mr. Vargo runs the weekly CAMPP program for students which focuses on leadership, integrity and commitment and connects students with area trades in the construction, architectural, and manufacturing industries. His students consistently create amazing projects which they are able to enter in different area competitions. Some have even been recognized at the state level. Mr. Vargo cares not only about his students' skills but also about their character. An outstanding teacher and an amazing role model, Mr. Vargo makes Allendale High School a better place.
- He and his students serve the school and the community through many of their projects such as storage sheds, Adirondack chairs, mailboxes, and most recently, a new ticket booth for the Falcon stadium.